Florida Be Prepared

The Florida Public Service Commission recommends that you use the following checklist to “be prepared” in the case of power outages and other utility service interruptions during extreme weather events.

- Stock up on nonperishable foods (canned meats and vegetables), medicines, supplies, and pet food if you have pets.

- Keep a working radio, flashlights, extra batteries, candles and oil lamps. Check regularly to ensure that they are in working order.

- Store drinking water in clean bottles. You may also use jugs, pans, and the bathtub if a major storm appears imminent.

- If someone in your home is dependent upon electric-powered, life-sustaining medical equipment, check with your utility on backup facilities well in advance.

- Make special arrangements for the care of infants, the elderly, and the physically impaired.

- Learn the evacuation route for your area and keep your car fueled up in case an evacuation is ordered.

- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers for police, fire, utility, and paramedic assistance.

- Keep a small amount of cash on hand, since an extended power outage may prevent you from withdrawing money from automated teller machines or banks.

- Call relatives, neighbors, or local emergency officials if you anticipate needing a place to stay.

- To prevent overloading when power is restored, turn off all major electric appliances.

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